

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCA-01

VOE-00 INSE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 SSO-00 /040 W

-----271009Z 076973 /21

O R 270500Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7367

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 3296

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, MY

SUBJECT: APPEAL FROM VIETNAMESE BOAT REFUGEE PUSHED OFF FROM MALAYSIA

REF: (A) KUALA LUMPUR 3288 (NOTAL); (B) KUALA LUMPUR 3254 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION. ON MAY 25 EMBASSY RECEIVED LETTER POSTED FROM BESUT ON MALAYSIA'S EAST COAST FROM U.S.-TRAINED FORMER ARVN CAPTAIN WHOSE BOAT WAS REPORTEDLY "PUSHED-OFF" BY MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES

DESPITE ITS SINKING CONDITION. NEITHER WE NOR UNHCR HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET FURTHER DETAILS FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES REGARDING STATUS OF BOAT. WHILE NOT WISHING OVER-DRAMATIZE A LOCAL SITUATION WHICH WE KNOW IS SERIOUS THROUGHTOUT SOUTHEAST ASIA, WE BELIEVE LETTER WILL GIVE ADDRESSEES BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEED TO ACHIEVE IMMEDIATE MOMENTUM IN PROCESSING OF BOAT REFUGEES HERE. END SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION.

2. BEGIN QUOTE. KUALA BESUT POLICE STATION MAY 21. DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR.

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THIS IS A S.O.S. LETTER. PLEASE RESCUE US. TEN HUMAN LIVES DEPEND ON YOU AND YOUR PROMPTNESS BECAUSE WE ARE IN A REAL DESPARATE (SIC) SITUATION.MY NAME IS VO NGOC MINH. I WAS AN ARMY CAPTAIN OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE RVN... I HAVE BEEN IN THE U.S.A. TWO TIMES, THE FIRST TIME FROM JULY TO NOVEMBER 1965 AT THE U.S. ARMY ORDINANCE SCHOOL ABERDEEN PROVING GROUNDS...; THE SECOND... FROM DEC 72 TO SEPT 73 AT REDSTONE ARSENAL...(I STILL HAVE PAPERS AND CERTIFICATES

CONCERNING MY U.S. TRAINING). NOW, I AM A CAPTAIN OF A FISHING BOAT CARRYING 10 VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, INCLUDED (SIC) 3 WOMEN AND A LITTLE NINE YEARS OLD GIRL, RUNNING AWAY FROM THE CRAZY COMMUNISTS IN VIETNAM. ...ALONG THE COAST OF MALAYSIA (TRENGGANU STATE) WE HAD ENGINE TROUBLE AND WATER LEAKING THROUGH THE BOAT. WE ARE NOW AT A SMALL SEA-TOWN NAMED KUALA BESUT...AND TODAY THE MALAYSIAN POLICE WILL ESCORT US TO THE INTERNATIONAL WATER AND CHASE US AWAY INSTEAD OF ALL OUR TROUBLES WITH THE BOAT AND MY ASKING FOR HELP. MR. AMBASSADOR, WHILE YOU ARE READING THIS LETTER MY BOAT MAY SINK AT ANY TIME OR POSSIBLY ALREADY SUNK. NO NEED TO BE AN EXPERT MECHANIC TO KNOW THAT AN ENGINE CAN COMPLETELY BREAK DOWN...IF IT HAS A DEFECTIVE LUBRICATING SYSTEM (OIL PRESSURE NOT RIGHT) AND MY BOAT IS IN THIS CONDITION. EVEN IF I CAN KEEP THE ENGINE RUNNING WE WILL BE IN VERY PREILLOUS (SIC) CONDITION AFTER A FEW HOURS... BECAUSE OF...THIS RATE OF WATER LEAKING THROUGH THE BOAT I HAVE TO USE THE BILGE PUMP CONTINUOUSLY AND WITH THE BEARING THEY'VE-- NOTE: MALAYSIANS? --JUST CHANGES (NOT A SEALED BEARING) IT WILL SURELY BREAK AFTER A FEW HOURS. USE AND WITH THE BOAT FULL OF WATER IN ONE HOUR WE WILL SINK DOWN. PLEASE RESCUE US BY: 1. SEND A RESCUE TEAM ON A HELICOPTER OR FAST BOAT TO THE INTERNATIONAL WATER ALONG THE MALAYSIAN COAST FROM KUALA BESUT TO SOUTH DIRECTION IN ORDER TO SEARCH A LIGHT BLUE PAINTED WITH WHITE STRIPES FISHING BOAT NUMBERED 0147RG. THE BOAT IS ABOUT 14 METERS LONG BY 3 METERS WIDE WITH CARRYING A S.O.S. PANEL AND A WHITE FLAG AND IT IS HEADING SOUTH IF STILL AFLOAT. 2. PLEASE ACCEPT US AS POLITICAL REFUGEES (6 PEOPLE LISTED BELOW, THE OTHER 4 PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY GOT IMMIGRATION PERMISSION FROM CANADA) AND LET THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT KNOW SO THEY LET US WAIT IN THEIR TERRITORY...ACCORDING TO AMERICAN TRADITION, TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS THAT PRESIDENT JIMMY UNCLASSIFIED

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CARTER SO OFTEN DECLARES AND BY HUMANITY REASONS I SINCERELY HOPE YOU WILL ACCEPT MY REQUISITION (SIC) BECAUSE I WAS AN ARMY OFFICER... AND I HAVE ESCAPED FROM THE COMMUNIST REHABILITATION CAMP. WILL BE JAILED FOR LIFE OR KILLED BY THE COMMUNIST. I HAVE RELATIVES WHO LIVE IN THE STATES. MY FATHER, MY MOTHER, MY SON AND MY BROTHERS AND SISTER ARE WORKING AND LIVING IN THE U.S. NOW. THEIR NAMES AND ADDRESSES ARE LISTED BELOW. YOUR HELP WILL BE REMEMBERED ALL THE LIFE OF TEN HUMAN BEING(S). VERY SINCERELY YOURS. (SIGNED.) VO NGOC MINH.

3. NOTE: LETTER HAS BEEN SLIGHTLY ABRIDGED FOR TRANSMISSION BY CABLE. WE HAVE PASSED COPIES TO UNHCR HERE AND TO CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION. NAME LISTS WILL BE SENT TO DEPT SEPTEL. DILLON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Sent Date: 27-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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